

PENALTIES PUNISH JADED WANDERERS

BY 'NOVA'

Kingstonian 4, Wycombe 2

"THE faces change but the search continues" said an advertising notice on the front of the Kingstonian programme—and how true the sentiment applies to Wycombe Wanderers this season. For since the start of the season there has been a steady flow of new faces into the senior side, but the search for the right blend still goes on.

Had Wycombe Reserves, still with a chance of honours, not had such an important end-of-season fixture rush, coach Don Welsh might have continued playing some of the youngsters who played so well at Leytonstone. Instead he recalled his experienced 'regulars'.

Whatever the youngsters' failings, they could not have looked quite so lethargic and jaded as these senior players.

The Kingston selectors had dropped 24-goal Tony Slade and 21-goal Alan Wyatt in favour of ex-Tooting favourite Roger Warnes and veteran Jim Coates and this rearranged line-up, playing a strict but effective 4-2-4 system, kept the Wanderers defence at full stretch for long periods.

FIRST BLOOD

After 12 minutes Warnes finished off a splendid move with a fierce angled drive to give Kingston the lead. But they only looked really dangerous again midway through the half after Bunting had been stunned in a three-man collision and Horseman had taken over in goal. Sensing their chance, the home side threw everything into attack but the spring-heeled Horseman was not to be beaten. Ten minutes later Bunting returned and this signalled a Wycombe rally, and almost on half-time Lowen slammed home an equaliser after a rare Kingston defensive slip.

Neither side seemed particularly anxious to increase the tempo at the start of the second half. None of the Wycombe forwards, bar occasionally Lowen and French, looked as if they wanted a touch of the ball and it was left to the promising Barry Baker to instigate most of the attacks. The defence was becoming shoddier and shoddier, with only Gale and Bunting

showing any resistance. Then the inevitable happened. Roystone, having his unhappiest game ever for the club, conceded two penalty kicks. McCormack scored from both and Kingston were virtually home and dry. Horseman did nod in a late reply but this was cancelled out three minutes from time with a goal from Field.